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Watching the CIA

Sen. McCarthy (D-Minn.) is the latest member of congress to call for a watchdog committee to keep an eye on the central intelligence agency. The CIA has not been subjected to a check by the congress. For lack of such a check, McCarthy says, it hasn't been possible to "determine the validity of criticisms or to prevent distortions or to dispel rumors."

Not long ago the CIA was charged with an attempt to bribe an official in Singapore. It was criticized for

its part in the Bay of Pigs invasion. It was involved in dubious activities in the Dominican Republic and Vietnam.

The CIA was created to collect and evaluate intelligence. Instead, as Sen. Young (D-Ohio) said recently, the CIA has "taken on the character of an invisible government." It has been interfering with and trying to make foreign policy.

Rep. Zablocki (D-Wis.) is one who has long sought congressional study and check of the CIA. The work of the atomic energy commission has been secret, too, but a joint congressional committee has kept an eye on it without jeopardizing security. There is no reason why the CIA should not be treated the same way.

CIA S
Rees McCarthy, Cagan
Rees Zablocki, Clement S.